

THE VALIDITY OF THE GENERIC NAME *PARAMELETUS*
BENGTSSON (EPHEMEROPTERA: SIPHLONURIDAE)

Michael D. Hubbard

Abstract.—The generic name *Parameletus* Bengtsson is shown to be a valid name, with *Sparrea* Esben-Petersen, *Potameis* Bengtsson, *Palmenia* Aro, and *Siphonuroides* McDunnough as junior synonyms.

There has recently been some confusion concerning the valid name of the genus of mayflies which has generally been known as *Parameletus* Bengtsson. The names *Sparrea* Esben-Petersen and *Potameis* Bengtsson have also been used for this genus. It is my intent to show that *Parameletus* is the valid name for this genus, thereby stabilizing the nomenclature and avoiding future confusion in the literature.

In 1908 (p. 242) Bengtsson described the larvae of *Parameletus chelifer* from Sweden. Although the description is brief ["larven, som är synnerligen utmärkt genom sina till saxklor omvandlade labialpalper": 'the larvae of this species which is very remarkable due to its labial palps which are transformed to scissor-like claws'], it is sufficient to meet the requirements of a description of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Art. 12) and the name *Parameletus chelifer* Bengtsson, 1908 cannot be considered to be a *nomen nudum*. Bengtsson also mentioned this species as *Parameletus affinis* [*nomen nudum*] in 1904 (p. 131).

In 1909 Esben-Petersen (p. 554) established the genus *Sparrea* for the single species *S. norvegica*. Later that same year Bengtsson (p. 13) established *Potameis* for the two species *P. elegans* and *P. minor*. Aro (1910, p. 28) established the genus *Palmenia* for the new species *P. fennica*. Bengtsson (1930, p. 13) showed that *Palmenia*, *Potameis*, and *Sparrea* were synonymous with *Parameletus*. In 1923 McDunnough (p. 48) had established *Siphonuroides* which he later (1932, p. 81) placed as a synonym of *Parameletus*.

Thus, *Parameletus* Bengtsson, 1908, is the valid name for this genus [type-species: *Parameletus chelifer* Bengtsson, by monotypy] with *Sparrea*, *Potameis*, *Palmenia*, and *Siphonuroides* all falling as junior synonyms.

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Drs. W. L. Peters, G. C. Steyskal, and G. F. Edmunds, Jr. for helpful discussion. This study was partially supported by a grant from the Cooperative State Research Service, USDA, Grant #616-15-20. Dr. B. Nagell aided with the translation from Swedish.

Literature Cited

- Aro, J. E. 1910. Piirteitä päiväkorenoisten (Ephemeridae) elämäntavoista ja kehityksetä. Viipurin Suomal-ainen Reaalilyseo 1910:1-32.
- Bengtsson, S. 1904. Reseberättelse afgifven af Regnellske stipendiaten docenten Simon Bengtsson för en zoologisk till Umea Lappmark 1903. K. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Årsbok 1904:117-131.
- . 1908. Berättelse öfver en resa i entomologiskt syfte till mellersta Sverige sommaren 1907. K. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Årsbok 6:237-246.
- . 1909. Beiträge zur Kenntnis der paläarktischen Ephemeriden. Lunds Univ. Årsskr., N.F., Afd. 2, 5(4):1-19.
- . 1930. Kritische Bemerkungen über einige nordische Ephemeropteren, nebst Beschreibung neuer Larven. Lunds Univ. Årsskr., N.F., Afd. 2, 26(3):1-27.
- Esen-Petersen, [T.]. 1909. New Ephemeridae from Denmark, Arctic Norway and the Argentine Republic. Deutsch. Entomol. Zool. 1909:551-556.
- McDunnough, J. 1923. New Canadian Ephemeridae with notes. Canad. Entomol. 55:39-50.
- . 1932. Further notes on the Ephemeroptera of the North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Canad. Entomol. 64:78-81.

Laboratory of Aquatic Entomology, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida 32307.